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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Amphibia, Anura, Hylidae, *Hypsiboas punctatus*: Distribution extension and filling distribution gaps

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Hypsiboas punctatus (Schneider 1799) (Figure 1) is a hylid frog that belongs to the *H. punctatus* group (*sensu* Faivovich et al. 2005). The coloration of this species is highly variable, with a predominantly green background with little red spots scattered on the dorsum (nocturnal coloration). The red spots become diffuse during daytime, restricted to tiny red-brown flecks, or these are absent (Duellman 1974). According to Frost (2004) and AmphibiaWeb (2006), the species occurs in the Amazon Basin of Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Brazil, Upper Orinoco Basin, Central Brazil, Chaco of Paraguay and Argentina, Guyana, French Guiana, Suriname, Northern Colombia, Trinidad Island (Trinidad and Tobago) and Venezuela. Bernarde (1998) extended the distribution to Southern Brazil (municipality of Diamante do Norte, Paraná state), but there are still some gaps in the species' distribution, mainly associated to the Brazilian Atlantic Forest. In this biome a very similar species occurs, *Hypsiboas atlanticus* (Caramaschi and Velosa 1996). This species differs from *H. punctatus* by a larger head and shorter snout, two short and contiguous groups of vomerian teeth (vomerian teeth groups elongated and separated in *H. punctatus*), and an approximately circular choanae (choanae elliptical and elongated in *H. punctatus*) (Caramaschi and Velosa 1996). Herein, we report for the first time the presence of *H. punctatus* in northeastern and southeastern Brazil, in the states of Pernambuco and São Paulo, respectively.

Specimens of *H. punctatus* from Pernambuco state were collected in the municipality of Igarassu (Refúgio Ecológico Charles Darwin, 07°48'37" – 07°49'2"S, 34°27'25" – 34°56'52" W) by E. Maranhão, in 1994; those from São Paulo state were collected in the municipality of Teodoro Sampaio (Parque Estadual Morro do Diabo, 22°37'00,5"S, 52°10'10,4"W) by T. S. Vasconcelos and T. G. dos Santos, in January 2006. In this latter locality, calling males were found on the vegetation (predominantly composed by Cyperaceae) at the edge of an artificial dam, and in flooded areas at the margins of the Paranapanema River (predominantly composed by Thyphaceae: *Thypha* sp., Pontederiaceae: *Eichornia* sp.). Voucher specimens were deposited in the Coleção Célio F. B. Haddad (CFBH 12014-12020), UNESP, Rio Claro, and in the Departamento de Zoologia e Botânica (DZSJRP 9888-9891), UNESP, São José do Rio Preto, both in São Paulo state, Brazil.

Figure 1. Adult of *Hypsiboas punctatus*, Municipality of Manaus, Amazonas State, Brazil. Photo: M. Gordo.

According to Duellman (1999), *H. punctatus* is distributed across three biogeographical South American regions: 1) Caribbean lowlands, that includes from tropical dry forest to tropical thorn woodland and desert scrub with tropical evergreen and semideciduous gallery forest, ranging from the vicinity of Cartagena, Colombia, to the Golfo de Paria, northeastern Venezuela; 2) Amazon Basin-Guiana lowlands, predominantly covered by humid tropical rainforest and including the lowland catchment area of the Amazonas River and its many tributaries that make up the Amazon

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Basin, which is continuous with the Guianan lowlands in northeastern South America, and 3) Cerrado-Caatinga-Chaco complex, predominantly covered by savanna and open forest formations, encompassing an area in the interior of the continent from northeastern Brazil to northern Argentina. In addition to what was reported by Bernarde (1998), the present study confirms that *H. punctatus* is also found in the Atlantic Forest domain (Mesophitic Semideciduous Forest sub-domain).

The records here reported extend the known geographical distribution of *H. punctatus* to the northeastern region of Brazil (Pernambuco State), and fill a distribution gap in southeastern Brazil (São Paulo state). Such an expressive enlargement of the geographical distribution of the species reflects the lack of herpetological surveys in Brazil, even in regions well studied, such as the state of São Paulo.

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